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LETTER DATED 11 JANUARY 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 771 (1992) and paragraph 1 of resolution 780 (1992), I have the honour to draw your attention to some additional information that has become available concerning war crimes in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

In accordance with official records of the Information and Research Department of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia (dated 4 January 1993), there have been 23,062 citizens of the Republic of Croatia wounded and 6,442 killed. There have been 6,762 civilians wounded (417 children, 3 priests and 27 physicians) and 2,181 civilians killed (75 children, 2 priests and 5 physicians) - the remaining victims are members of the defence forces of Croatia. I have to point out the unusually high share of civilian casualties - about one third. The data available account only for victims that have been treated in hospitals and/or have been positively established by Croatian authorities. However, the following data represent a conservative estimate that clearly shows that the share of civilians in the total number of victims of war in Croatia is undoubtedly much higher.

Based on a considerable number of testimonies of eyewitnesses who have survived massacres, it is estimated that at least 1,000 Croatian civilians (mostly people over 60 years of age) have been massacred, summarily executed or brutally killed by Serbian paramilitary forces in temporarily occupied Western and Eastern Slavonia, excluding Vukovar, Banija, Kordun, Lika and Dalmacija.

There are at least 1,851 Croatian citizens who have been identified as killed in Vukovar. One has to take into account that there are still 2,600 persons who have been missing since the fall of the city to the occupation forces (out of which 303 persons disappeared directly from the hospital: 18 employees, 25 auxiliary medical staff, 60 civilians and 200 wounded). Since there is reason to believe that the majority of them have been killed, the total number of victims in Vukovar can be estimated at 4,500 to 5,000 persons, 70 per cent of them civilians.

According to the lists of missing persons kept by the Croatian Red Cross, there are 13,788 persons still missing (416 of them children).

In accordance with the criteria set forth by the World Health Organization, 2,091 disabled persons have been registered so far in Croatia, 670 of those civilians and 1,421 members of defence forces. A certain number of disabled persons have in addition been registered, but have not yet been classified according to the criteria.

During the war, and until 3 December 1992, 5,261 persons from Serbian concentration camps and POW camps have been exchanged (3,766 are citizens of Vukovar). According to the results of the medical examinations done upon release, approximately 90 per cent of them have been victims of violence and maltreatment during incarceration. There is complete medical documentation in 20 cases of sexual violence, and an additional 80 cases are presently under investigation.

Until 6 December 1992, 268,526 persons within the borders of Croatia have been registered as displaced, and 426,852 coming from the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina have been granted refugee status. The total number of displaced persons and refugees is 695,378.

I would kindly ask your assistance in distributing this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladimir DROBNJAK
Chargé d'affaires a.i.